

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 16, 2003

LB 249

think the tone of the conversation, at least in the committee, was that this, the mechanism now in place, is not a particularly good one to convey the information that you're concerned about; that there's sort of a flier sent around to whoever it may concern or may not concern. It's largely disregarded so it's not a particularly effective means of communicating. School systems obviously are not saddened to see this responsibility go away. The point was also made that there are, perhaps over the past ten years since this was first implemented, some changes in communication technology that offer some alternatives. Certainly we've always had phone books and lawyers and that kind of thing, but there are additional communications opportunities through the Internet and so on now, which may also help convey this kind of information or make it available in a way that students who are interested would likely be able to access it. I hope that's somewhat responsive to your question.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Well, thank you, I guess I'm not...I don't have any real strong opinions one way or the other on the process issue and so forth, but I do have strong opinions on a 12-year-old being able to get information for choices in her life that's safe and good information. I don't know if getting it from your friends or off the Internet is an effective way to help a child in that situation. I'm going to have to think about this one, I guess. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I hadn't planned to speak. This might address Senator Thompson's concern. What she described was a social service problem. That's somebody in an abusive situation. I don't know what the systems are in place in schools to be alert to these kinds of things or what's offered, but whatever that is, that should capture this person and bring her into the care system in which various options could be discussed. So that's why I was one of the people willing to vote unanimously to get this bill out, and I assume that's why the schools came in and uniformly, unanimously said, please get this extra mandate off of us, because there are other systems in place to accommodate the kind of crisis that Senator